

marches, or were massacred outright by Turkish forces. From 1918 to 1923, Armenians continued to suffer at the hands of the Turkish military, which eventually removed nearly all remaining Armenians from Turkey.

We mark this anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide because this tragedy for the Armenian people was a tragedy for all humanity. It is our duty to remember, to speak out and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and the oppression and terrible suffering endured by the Armenian people.

We hope the day will soon come when it is not just the survivors who honor the dead but also when those whose ancestors perpetrated the horrors acknowledge their terrible responsibility and commemorate as well the memory of genocide's victims.

Sadly, we cannot say humanity has progressed to the point where genocide has become unthinkable. We have only to recall the killing fields of Cambodia, mass killings in Rwanda, ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Kosovo, and the unspeakable horrors in Darfur, Sudan to see that the threat of genocide persists. We must renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on innocent human beings.

We also remember this day because it is a time for us to celebrate the contributions of the Armenian community in America—including hundreds of thousands in California—to the richness of our character and culture. The strength they and their immigrant ancestors have displayed in overcoming tragedy to flourish in this country is an example for all of us. Their success is moving testimony to the truth that tyranny and evil cannot extinguish the vitality of the human spirit.

The United States has an ongoing opportunity to contribute to a true memorial to the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy. We must do all we can through aid and trade to support Armenia's efforts to construct an open political and economic system.

Adolf Hitler, the architect of the Nazi Holocaust, once remarked "Who remembers the Armenians?" The answer is, we do. And we will continue to remember the victims of the 1915–23 genocide because, in the words of the philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

INTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SHI'ITE PERSONAL STATUS LAW IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives BALDWIN, and BIGGERT, I am introducing a House Concurrent Resolution which expresses the sense of Congress that the Shi'ite Personal Status Law in Afghanistan violates the fundamental rights of women and should be repealed. Senator BOXER is introducing the same resolution in the Senate.

In March the Afghan parliament approved the Shi'ite Personal Status Law which was

signed by President Hamid Karzai. According to reports in the media and by the United Nations, this law would legalize marital rape, strip mothers of custodial rights in the event of a divorce, and prohibit a woman from leaving her home unless her husband gives his approval. President Obama has called this law "abhorrent" and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said that the law is "reprehensible and reminiscent of the decrees made by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in the 1990s."

This resolution urges the Afghan Government and President Karzai to declare these provisions unconstitutional, and to not publish the law on the grounds that it violates the Constitution of Afghanistan and the basic rights of women. Additionally, the resolution encourages the U.S. Government to address the status of women's rights and security in Afghanistan to ensure that these rights are not being eroded.

I have long been a champion for the rights of women internationally, but particularly in Afghanistan. Throughout the country's turbulent history, the women of Afghanistan have been a source of strength, stability, and peace. Working with my colleagues, we have ensured that reconstruction aid for Afghanistan includes support for programs that increase women's access to education, economic opportunities, and health care. We have also worked to increase recognition of the vital role women have to play in rebuilding Afghan society in the wake of violent conflict, and I am pleased that the U.S. government has devoted resources specifically to support the work of local women-led nongovernmental organizations, as well as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

In its current form, the Shi'ite Personal Status Law fundamentally contradicts these efforts. We cannot stand by and allow such an immense setback to the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, who have been treated as second-class citizens for far too long. For years, the United States has worked with the people and government of Afghanistan to rebuild the rule of law and promote respect for human rights. Creating a new and better future for the women of Afghanistan is a critical part of this mission.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF GREATER COLUMBUS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. Praised for its dedication to saving and restoring lives, the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus serves over 1.3 million residents in Central Ohio.

Having recently celebrated "Red Cross Month" during March, I am pleased to highlight the successes of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. As one of the most trusted charities in Central Ohio, this chapter is at the forefront of helping individuals and families prevent, prepare for, and respond to large and small scale disasters.

Led by Mary Navarro, Michael Carroll and a committed Board of Directors, this group of

over 700 volunteers and 55 full-time employees responded to 356 local disasters in 2008. Their service and assistance directly impacted the lives of over 470 families in Central Ohio.

Educating more than 73,000 individuals about how to prepare for emergencies and training more than 46,000 residents in First Aid, CPR, Water Safety, and other life-saving courses the Greater Columbus Chapter of the American Red Cross is providing much more than relief to victims. The benefit of programs like these provides support to the public beyond times of need.

It is my pleasure to recognize the American Red Cross of Central Ohio for their unrelenting and inspiring record of service to the families of Central Ohio. All have produced a safer place for the residents of Central Ohio to call home.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE IRVING J. STOLBERG

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of one of Connecticut's most outstanding public leaders and my dear friend, The Honorable Irving J. Stolberg. After a year-long fight, Irv lost his battle with leukemia and Connecticut lost one of its most respected and beloved public officials.

Elected to Connecticut's House of Representatives in 1970, Irv served twenty-two years in the General Assembly—a member of virtually every committee and twice elected to lead as Speaker. It was during his tenure as Speaker that the General Assembly saw its greatest transformation with more members seeing legislating as their primary occupation even though it is considered a part-time position and his oversight of the construction of the Legislative Office Building which, after its opening in 1988, gave all legislators their own offices and provided the additional space for public hearings that our historic Capitol building could not accommodate. The very character of the General Assembly was changed with the members finding a stronger voice and taking a more active role in shaping public policy. He has been called the "father of the modern legislature" and there could not be a more fitting tribute to his legacy.

His passion for service stretched far beyond Connecticut politics. A Professor of Geography and African Studies, Irv taught at both Southern Connecticut State University as well as Quinnipiac University. As an Africanist, he did research in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. Most recently, Irv served as the President of the Connecticut Division of the United Nations Association and was most proud of his production of the widely distributed UNA Calendar of Peace. He was a member of the UNA Board of Directors and in 2006 was elected to represent the United States on the Executive Committee of the World Federation of UNAs. His travels took him to more than 90 countries—twenty-two visits to China alone. He helped to develop training programs at American universities for more than 700 Chinese Provincial Officials, assisted in the democratization of Eastern Europe—particularly in Bulgaria—and had a role in drafting the Brazilian

Constitution. A recognition of his commitment and contributions to international relations, President Clinton appointed Irving to the Commission on the Preservation of American Culture Abroad where he had the lead responsibility for relations with Slovakia, Ukraine, and Moldavia. Irv was indeed a global citizen and has left an indelible mark not only on our state but across the world.

Here in Connecticut, Irv was also instrumental in the establishment of Connecticut Hospice—the first organization of its kind in the nation. Connecticut Hospice is dedicated to using a holistic approach in helping patients and their families attain an optimum quality of life as they cope with irreversible illnesses providing the comfort and care that they need in their last days. It may also be fitting that it was at Connecticut Hospice, surrounded by family and friends, that Irving spent his final days.

Irv dedicated a lifetime to public service and forever changed the face of Connecticut politics. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to call him my friend. Today, as we remember all that Irv contributed to his community and his state, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family: his son Robert; former wife, Alicia; his brothers, Roger and Frank; and his sister, Melody. Irving J. Stolberg set an example for public service to which we should all strive and has left a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Public Service Academy Act of 2009, which will create the first stand alone university dedicated solely to producing highly qualified and well-trained civilian public servants.

The new century has brought immense challenges that require strong and prepared, competent and committed public servants. On the eve of the retirement of the baby-boom generation, our nation presses for a new generation of teachers, firefighters, and federal employees to fill the potential void these retirees will leave. Our civil servants will have to address the need to finance entitlement costs in an age of trillion dollar deficits; the need to educate and train a workforce that can compete and prosper in a global economy; the need to provide quality affordable healthcare; the need to protect and preserve the planet's fragile environment; the need to negotiate and

reconcile differences with foreign nations; and the need to deter terrorism and keep our nation safe and secure. All of these challenges will require a professional public workforce, and yet because of shifting demographics our civil service faces a wave of retirement over the next decade that threatens the effective operation of government.

For these reasons, it is critically important that Congress provide young Americans with the best education and training that will allow them to become our nation's future leaders. Young Americans are ready to answer the call. According to the Higher Education Research Institute, approximately 70 percent of the 2007 freshman class expressed a desire to serve others. Applications to programs like Teach for America and City Year along with religious missions involving young Americans have greatly increased. A 2008 poll conducted by Social Sphere Strategies found that 88% of 18–29-year-olds supported the Public Service Academy, with 57% saying that they “likely” would have considered applying to the Academy had it been available when they were applying to college. College presidents, news publications and some of the leading voices in public service—both Democrat and Republican—have endorsed the creation of the Academy.

Now is the time to tap into American's renewed sense of civic obligation and offer an avenue to serve others. Yet, the cost of pursuing public service opportunities after graduation is often prohibitive because college tuition has increased dramatically in the past decade—47 percent at private schools and 63 percent at public schools. As a result of these soaring tuitions, the average college graduate owes about \$20,000, an increase of more than 50 percent in the past decade. These potential public servants often overburdened by the debts of college and university loans, are forced to choose more lucrative private sector jobs over public service opportunities.

Modeled after the military service academies, the Public Service Academy will provide a four-year, federally-assisted college education for more than 5,000 students a year in exchange for a five-year commitment to public service in areas such as education, public health, law enforcement, and local, state and the federal government. With its mission critical to the health of our public service, the Academy will strive to recruit the top students and faculty from around the United States, require intensive courses in leadership and public service, and eventually help place students in positions throughout the public sphere. Moreover, by providing students with a federally-funded education, the stress of debt would be eliminated, and their commitment to the public service sector for at least five years could lead to lifelong service.

Madam Speaker, last year, over 120 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives joined in the effort to create the Public Service Academy. I am encouraged by the early support of over 25 cosponsors in just a few weeks of circulating this year's proposal. The time to create a United States Public Service Academy is now. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the committees of jurisdiction to bring attention to this issue and make the Public Service Academy a reality.

RECOGNIZING DR. C. BRENT DEVORE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. C. Brent DeVore for his service and tenure at Otterbein College.

Dr. C. Brent DeVore has been a tireless advocate for higher education. Known to his peers as, “the Dean of Higher Education,” Dr. DeVore has brought a great deal of leadership to Otterbein College throughout his 24 years of service. His service on the boards of 23 national and local non profit organizations earned him the honor of the President's Call to Service Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Otterbein has grown to 3,107 students under Dr. DeVore's guidance. He has improved retention rates and increased the endowment from \$6 million to \$100 million. Not only have student facilities been renovated, but land acquisition has nearly doubled the size of campus under Dr. DeVore's direction.

In addition to his work at Otterbein College, Dr. DeVore has made a lasting impression on the community. He has made service a priority of the college and student life. Last year alone, Otterbein students donated over 32,000 hours of community service to Central Ohio. Nearly 70 percent of the student body has participated in service projects throughout the community. Otterbein's generous service to the community earned Otterbein College the President's Award for General Community Service in February 2008 from the White House.

For his years of service at Otterbein College and consistent hard work toward the betterment of our higher education system, I commend Dr. C. Brent DeVore upon his retirement.